

Chairman's Report – 08 February 2021

1. BWCE

One of the key findings from the Community Forum meeting about the Climate & Nature Emergency is the need for the provision of renewable energy.

Several discussion groups put forward the concept of a community renewable energy facility.

As councillors are aware, this has been on our minds for a while and a couple of options were put to BANES to include in their planning. Also, discussions have been fed back to the PC.

The next step is to undertake a Scoping Study to identify the options on moving forwards.

BWCE have provided a quote for this – see associated document. There is an element missing from this which is to better investigate other possible sites. Whilst a couple have been identified these need to be investigated further – which would be part of the Scoping Study – but also other potential sites for renewable energy should be considered. This last point would increase the cost of the Scoping Study by c.£1,500.

BWCE would underwrite 50% of the scoping study. Therefore, the PC would need to find c.£3.9k (say £4k) to progress with this scoping study.

There are possibilities for obtaining this funding and responses, especially from BANES, is being waited on.

The likelihood of obtaining funding from BANES is slim – but it is an important step.

Following discussions with Selina, it is proposed to raise this matter formally with the PC, and to reach a decision moving forwards at the March meeting.

The March meeting will be a decision point, not a discussion forum, so could councillors please ensure that they are fully up to speed prior to that meeting.

2. Water Pipe Locator

There is a private water pipe across The Tynning linking a spring which is by Spring Water Cottage in Rosemary Lane with The Old Manor House.

The Parish Council has the responsibility of ensuring that the water pipe is not disturbed. This water pipe has served The Old Manor since the early 1800's and is not maintained by Wessex Water.

There is a map of where the water pipe is in relation to The Tynning – see accompanying map – which was clearly drawn a while ago.

The implication from the map is that the water pipe runs along the footpath on the south of The Tynning – but we cannot be sure that the current day boundaries relate to this map.

Also, the depth of the water pipe is unknown. Metal detectors apparently work up to a depth of 8-10 inches and hiring a professional outfit to scan would be a massive expense.

It should be noted that the original location that was approved by the PC for memorial trees may be directly above or near the water pipe.

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There are Pipe and Cable locators (Cable Avoidance Tools – CAT) that can be hired by the day and we could undertake this work ourselves. These operate to a depth of 3m which should be ample.

Brandon Hire have a daily hire rate of £46.90 plus VAT plus damage waiver. The weekly cost is £78.16 plus extras.

I could not easily find a cheaper alternative locally – but one may be available.

The proposal is to hire a CAT and then use a village resource to identify the exact location of the pipe.

Request. The PC approves expenditure of up to £100 to cover the hire of a CAT to plot the exact route of the water pipe.

3. Website Update

Little progress has been made on the website since the last meeting.

There is a meeting planned with Zonkey for Monday or Tuesday. That meeting should provide a route to going live. There is much that needs to be done as the current website content is largely out of date. The current website has been migrated 'as is' and will need to be brought up to date. This will be far easier on the new website.

There are some key activities that need to be undertaken – such as training, image loading and a few items that are outstanding.

If the meeting with Zonkey happens on Monday, then a verbal update will be given to the PC.